

EVILS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

141

should be added, disposes us to seek the consolations that are offered by religion. It deepens into misery the irritation which proceeds from an unsatisfied impulse : if we are moved to acquire a thing, consciousness brings home to us the bitterness of failure. And it afflicts us with the anguish of repentance—that feeling which arises from the failure of the conscious will to hold its own against the temptations of instinct. The freedom of the brutes from these refinements of trouble moved Walt Whitman to envy them :-

They do not sweat and whine about their condition;
They do not lie awake in the dark, and weep for their sins ;
They do not make me sick, discussing their duty to God.
Not one is dissatisfied—not one is demented with the mania for owning things ;
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago ;
Not one is respectable or industrious over the whole world.

I. *Errors of apprehension.*—Before consciousness are unrolled two sets of images—the sensory impressions representing actualities, and the recollections, or memorial visions, that are conjured up by the memory. The latter may be exceedingly distinct, and are generally very distinct during childhood and in persons who are weakly endowed with critical powers. Their verisimilitude is heightened by the faculty of visualization—or seeing an image in detail—which appears to be strongest when

reason is weakest. Children are easily disposed to see ghosts in the dark, and savage life is overshadowed by mysterious hauntings. But the seeing of visions is not confined to the young or the uncultured. Many men of intelligence have been troubled by hallucinations—of presences or voices—whose unreality can hardly be established